

**Security Council**

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Identical letters dated 19 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I write this letter of complaint regarding an incident along the Israeli-Lebanese border. On Friday, 16 April 2010, a group of about 20 Lebanese citizens, led by Lebanese Member of Parliament Qassem Hashem, engaged in provocative activities near the area of Aabasiya adjacent to Rajar. According to UNIFIL, the group "crossed the Blue Line and ... removed sign posts of a minefield as well as concertina wire which was laid by the Israeli Defense Forces three days ago, and placed two Lebanese flags next to the Israeli technical fence." Furthermore, it merits the attention that Mr. Hashem, whose political affiliation is well known, has been involved in similar incidents in the past, for example on 17 July 2009 when he led 15 Lebanese civilians across the Blue Line near a UNIFIL position adjacent to the Shuba village. On this matter, I issued a formal letter of complaint to you on 20 July 2009.

Given that the most recent violation by Mr. Hashem and his followers took place while UNIFIL and Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) were in the area of Aabasiya, the Government of Israel expects UNIFIL and the LAF to prevent such provocative action through necessary measures.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter of complaint distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gabriela Shalev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



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Security Council**Distr.: General
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**General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 21
Question of Cyprus****Security Council
Sixty-fifth year****Letter dated 15 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of
Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 17 February 2010 addressed to you (A/64/671-S/2010/92), I have the honour to draw your attention to ongoing violations of the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 1 February to 30 March 2010, as follows.

On 1 February 2010, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 2 February 2010, two F-4 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice.

On 3 February 2010, one CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 4 February 2010, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 9 February 2010, four F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times.

On 10 February 2010, two B-200 and one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 11 February 2010, two F-16 and two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 14 and 15 February 2010, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 16 February 2010, one Turkish military aircraft of unknown type violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 17 February 2010, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 18 February 2010, two F-16, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 19 and 20 February 2010, four CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 22 February 2010, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 24 February 2010, two F-16, two CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 26 and 27 February 2010, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 1 March 2010, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations.

On 3 March 2010, two F-4, one CN-235 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 8 March 2010, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 9 March 2010, two F-16 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 10 March 2010, two F-16, one B-16 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations six times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus six times.

On 11 March 2010, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 12 March 2010, one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 16 March 2010, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 17 March 2010, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 19 March 2010, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 22 and 23 March 2010, six F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 24 March 2010, one B-200, one CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations six times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus six times.

On 25 March 2010, two F-16, two CN-235 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations six times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 26 March 2010, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 29 March 2010, two F-16 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice.

On 30 March 2010, two F-16, one C-160 and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the aforementioned continued violations by Turkey and call for their immediate cessation. These violations blatantly endanger the safety of international civil aviation and contravene international law and air traffic regulations, putting the peace and stability of the region at stake.

Turkey's systematic attempts to undermine the sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Cyprus by promoting an illegal secessionist entity, arrogating to itself, *inter alia*, the right to control part of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, further complicate the efforts to build trust and confidence between the two communities. Such policies and actions provide ample demonstration of the irresponsible behaviour of a country that now serves as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

As stated in previous such letters, the continued violations of the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey should be included in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus.

The Government of Turkey should heed the call of the international community, abide by the Charter of the United Nations and respect the sovereignty,

independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, thus contributing to the creation of the required conditions for the achievement of a viable solution to the Cyprus problem, according to the agreed basis endorsed by numerous Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Minas A. Hadjimichael



Security Council

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Letter dated 19 April 2010 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 October to 31 December 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 October to 31 December 2009.
2. As at 31 December, the total number of troops in theatre was 11,600. This number included 1,800 troops from non-NATO countries.

Security situation

3. The overall security situation in Kosovo remained generally quiet but fragile in the north. The electoral campaign and the electricity supply and distribution are the main subjects of interest during the reporting period. The electoral campaign, which began on 15 October and lasted until 14 November, was generally peaceful, despite some politically motivated incidents, including acts of vandalism, theft and assault. With regard to the power shortfalls, it should be noted there has been no change to the status quo on electricity supply and distribution in the northern part of Kosovo.
4. Over the course of the reporting period close to 100 vehicles of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) were vandalized, in Priština and in Prizren in particular. Locations of the reported vandalism match previous trends, and no one is claiming responsibility. Historically, this type of activity is associated with either a criminal case EULEX is investigating or as a statement towards EULEX for a recent political event. The threat to security is assessed as low.
5. Throughout the reporting period, members of the independent trade union Elektrokosova, ranging from 30 to 200 protestors, staged a series of protests in front of the main headquarters building of Kosovo Electric Company in Priština. The protestors demanded the resignations of the Company's General Manager and Supply Manager in addition to better working conditions and annual vacations. From 21 to 24 December, the Company workers in Gjakovë/Djakovica protested in support of their Priština colleagues. A general strike starting on 28 December was announced, but eventually cancelled.
6. On 1 October, an unusual incident took place at a school in Kosovo Polje/Fushe Kosovë. Students complained of nausea after breathing noxious air while on the school grounds. Many students, some hysterical, were taken to hospital for examination. To date no toxic material has been identified. None of the students were detained in hospital with any lasting symptoms.
7. On 19 October, Kosovo Electric Company temporarily suspended supply of electricity to the Valac power substation, which feeds northern Kosovo, after unseasonal weather conditions caused a demand spike beyond the capacity of the line and personnel at the Valac substation refused the Company orders to implement necessary safety precautions. On 20 October Serbian Electric Company employees took steps to supply power to northern Kosovo through an alternate line from Novi Pazar, Serbia. On 27 October, Kosovo Electric Company notified Serbian Electric Company that maintenance was complete and it was ready to resume delivery of power, but Serbian Electric Company employees at Valac denied Kosovo Electric

Company access to the substation to reconnect the lines. Elektrokosmet, a related Serbian power company, began distributing electricity bills to those receiving electricity supplies in northern Kosovo, with a proposed billing range of between 40 and 60 euros per household.

8. On 29 October, a large quantity of old unexploded ordnance, ammunition and weapons was discovered at the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Ferizaj/Uroševac training facility. It is thought that the find dates back to when Ferizaj/Uroševac was a Yugoslav military facility; a Kosovo Force (KFOR) explosive ordnance disposal team arranged for disposal and a clean-up of the area.

9. On 24 November, multiple shots were fired from an automatic weapon at the Gjakovë/Djakovica municipal building; no injuries were reported.

10. On 15 November, local elections for municipal assemblies and mayors took place. No significant threats to security were reported.

11. On 7 December, a rocket propelled grenade was fired at a store in Suva Reka/Suharekë Municipality. The grenade caused only minor damage and there were no reported injuries.

KFOR operations

12. Operations in support of Operation Effective Knight continue, focused on an effects-based approach. KFOR is to contribute to a safe and secure environment, in close coordination with both international and local civilian actors, by conducting intelligence-driven operations across the territory of Kosovo, using situational awareness, rapid and determined deployment of manoeuvre forces, and reserves to deter violence and deal with crisis situations. KFOR will use reduced forces and a changed force posture as it moves to deterrent presence.

13. On 29 September the NATO Military Committee visited KFOR. The visit included a tour of the KSF training centre at Ferizaj/Uroševac.

14. The German/Austrian Operational Reserve Force Battalion was deployed from 2 October to 8 November. The battalion was declared mission ready in theatre on 12 October.

15. KFOR put in place Operation Electric Knight, in coordination with EULEX, to deter and prevent disturbances at the Valac electricity substation in the Kosovo Serb-majority municipality of Zvečan; Serbian Electric Company employees retained control over the substation. As from 23 November, KFOR and EULEX began security patrols in the vicinity of the substation.

16. Within the general context of gradual "unfixing" from the nine Supreme Allied Commander Europe-designated properties with designated special status, the Gazimestan Monument unfixing plan and procedures were tested during the reporting period. Effective coordination among the relevant actors in the security domain in Kosovo was witnessed within this process.

New tasks of NATO

Kosovo Security Force

17. Following the school incident referred to in paragraph 6 of the present report, the Commander of KFOR commended KSF on its immediate and professional reaction, despite having just reached its initial operating capability.

18. Two hundred and thirty-four former members of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) who were potential candidates for KSF enlistment completed their basic training. On 21 October, 147 were selected, based on their average scores achieved in the training. They will be offered a contract for service in KSF, subject to vetting. At the end of the reporting period, KSF strength was 1,800.

19. On 10 December, Glock pistols arrived from Austria to equip KSF. A well organized and supervised inspection took place, in addition to receipt and registration in the KSF property book. A follow-up report will also be forwarded to the ministry for KSF. NATO Advisory Team members and KFOR representatives monitored the entire operation.

20. The establishment of a plan for a new recruitment campaign was still ongoing at the end of the reporting period.

21. The Military Civilian Advisory Division at KFOR is working according to plan. It reviewed and, in principle, concurred on the KSF draft training concept. The agreed training plan for 2010 was signed on 22 December by the Commander of KSF and was handed over to the NATO Advisory Team, the Military Civilian Advisory Division and Land Force Command. The Commander of KSF also approved the training directive and revised training concept.

Conclusion

22. The overall situation in Kosovo remained generally quiet during the reporting period despite some tensions related to the election campaign, electricity delivery and bill collection difficulties, mainly in the north, and vandalism against EULEX property. KFOR maintains its third responder status and will remain ready to assist EULEX and the Kosovo Police Service upon request. KFOR continued to implement the move to "Transition Gate 1" in line with the decision of the North Atlantic Council of August 2009.



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Letter dated 15 April 2010 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1757 (2007) of 30 May 2007 and its annex, relating to the establishment of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. Pursuant to article 2, paragraph 5 (d) of the annex, I am to appoint the judges of the Special Tribunal upon the recommendation of a selection panel I establish after indicating my intentions to the Security Council. The panel is to be composed of two judges, currently sitting on or retired from an international tribunal, and the representative of the Secretary-General.

I wish to inform the Security Council of my intention to appoint, in accordance with the above-mentioned provisions, Judge Mohamed Amin El Mahdi of Egypt and Judge Erik Mose of Norway as the two judges on the selection panel, as well as Patricia O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, as my representative.

Judge El Mahdi served as judge of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia from 2001 to 2005, including as Presiding Judge of trials. Prior to that appointment, he served as President of the Conseil d'Etat and Head of the Supreme Administrative Court of Egypt.

Judge Mose served as judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda since 1999 and as its President from 2003 to 2007. Prior to that appointment, he served as judge of the Court of Appeals in Oslo and as a Supreme Court Advocate in the Solicitor General's Office.

The members of the selection panel will be convened shortly to take up their duties.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon



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Letter dated 19 April 2010 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 15 April 2010 (S/2010/198) concerning your intention to appoint Judge Mohamed Amin El Mahdi of Egypt and Judge Erik Mose of Norway as the two judges on the selection panel, as well as Patricia O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, as your representative has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(Signed) Yukio Takasu
President of the Security Council

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 1892 (2009), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 10 October 2010, and requested me to report on its implementation semi-annually and not later than 45 days prior to its expiration. The present report covers major developments since my report of 1 September 2009 (S/2009/439) until 15 April 2010, with a focus on the period since the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010. The report describes activities undertaken by the Mission in line with its mandate under Security Council resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005), 1702 (2006), 1743 (2007), 1780 (2007), 1840 (2008), 1892 (2009) and 1908 (2010), and provides recommendations on the future role of the Mission in Haiti.

II. Impact of the 12 January earthquake

2. On 12 January 2010, Haiti was hit by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake, particularly affecting the capital, Port-au-Prince; Petit-Goâve, Grand-Goâve and Léogâne (West Department); the town of Jacmel (South-East Department); and the town of Miragoâne (Nippes Department). According to the Government of Haiti, as a result of the quake, 222,570 people were killed, many thousands were injured or permanently disabled, and 1.5 million were left homeless. On 16 March, the United Nations and partners launched a displacement tracking matrix that identified 460 settlement sites with a total population of 1.17 million internally displaced persons in the Port-au-Prince area alone. Hundreds of thousands more fled the capital for the rural areas and provincial capitals, in particular Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, Cap-Haïtien, Hinche and Les Cayes, placing great stress on local host families and communities.

3. The capacity of the Haitian State was seriously affected. Two senators were killed, and many senior political leaders were injured. The elections originally scheduled for February 2010 were postponed, creating a climate of political uncertainty. According to the Government of Haiti, up to one third of the country's 60,000 civil servants perished. Many government buildings were destroyed or badly damaged, notably the National Palace, the Supreme Court, the Palais de Justice, the Parliament, the major courts and police facilities, and all but one Ministry. The Haitian National Police was hard hit, with 77 officers killed and hundreds injured or

unaccounted for. Half of the total 8,535 prisoners in Haiti escaped in the aftermath of the quake, including several hundred who were being held on charges related to gang activities.

4. The United Nations itself was also a victim. The Hotel Christopher, the headquarters of MINUSTAH collapsed, and nearby United Nations offices and other facilities were severely affected. A total of 101 United Nations staff lost their lives, including my Special Representative, Hédi Annabi, my Deputy Special Representative, Luiz Carlos da Costa, the Acting Police Commissioner, Douglas Coates, the Director of Political Affairs, Gerard Le Chevallier, the Head of the Elections Unit, Marc Plum, and military, police and civilian staff. Many more were injured, and others have been unable to return to work. Those who survived and remained in the Mission have witnessed scenes of unimaginable devastation and suffering. They are there to serve and, like the Haitian population, they are still grieving for lost friends and colleagues.

III. United Nations and international community response

Emergency response

5. Within hours of the earthquake, emergency relief operations were launched by the United Nations and a number of Member States. Specialized military and civilian units undertook search-and-rescue operations, established field hospitals and provided immediate support to life-saving assistance efforts and restoring key infrastructure. MINUSTAH, despite its own losses, acted as a crucial first responder, opening the major arterial road from the Port-au-Prince airport to the town centre, re-establishing communications and opening its medical facilities to victims. The United States of America and Canada both began to deploy disaster assistance troops to the most affected areas within 72 hours of the earthquake and built up to a presence of 18,500 and 2,000 troops, respectively, by the end of January.

6. On 13 January, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs deployed a disaster assessment and coordination team to identify priority needs. The team established an on-site operations coordination centre to assist the Government of Haiti and to help coordinate logistical support for the international search-and-rescue effort. Simultaneously, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee expanded the existing humanitarian cluster system and identified lead agencies for thematic areas.

7. On 14 January, I sent the Assistant Secretary-General for the Office of Operations in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, to Haiti as my Acting Special Representative. The Assistant Secretary-General for the Department of Field Support, Anthony Banbury, subsequently deployed to Haiti as Acting Principal Deputy Special Representative. A small team from Headquarters also deployed to MINUSTAH to support emergency functions and the MINUSTAH staff who had remained in Port-au-Prince. On 24 January, MINUSTAH and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs established a joint operations and tasking centre, with military liaison officers from the United States Joint Task Force-Haiti, the Canadian Task Force, the European Union Situation Centre and the Caribbean Community, to facilitate coordination with international forces and to provide a central hub for tactical planning.

8. In the days after the earthquake, hundreds of bilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals sent emergency assistance to Haiti. Calls for financial assistance received an overwhelming response. The Central Emergency Response Fund has so far allocated a total of \$36 million towards the Haiti response, as well as another \$2 million for humanitarian operations in the Dominican Republic. The Emergency Relief Response Fund for Haiti, supported by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, received \$83 million, of which \$70 million has already been programmed. A revised Flash Appeal for 2010 has so far received \$747 million out of a total of \$1.4 billion being requested. In the light of the vast needs in Haiti and the many actors involved, I asked the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, former President of the United States of America, William J. Clinton, to take on an expanded role in the relief and reconstruction effort in order to help coordinate at the international level the work of, among others, United Nations agencies, donors and private investors.

Humanitarian relief effort

9. The scale of destruction caused by the earthquake created tremendous difficulties for the initial relief effort. Electrical and communication systems were destroyed, the main port was closed, and roads in Port-au-Prince were blocked by rubble. With the assistance of the United States Joint Task Force-Haiti, Port-au-Prince airport was reopened on 13 January. Initially, air traffic congestion and prioritization of flights posed challenges, and many emergency supplies were brought by land through the Dominican Republic where the Government had put in place special measures to facilitate the transit of humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian access improved quickly, with the assistance of the United States, to enable the reopening of the seaport on 22 January.

10. Humanitarian responders have worked tirelessly to meet critical needs, paying particular attention to the needs of the most vulnerable, including children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Significant progress has been made, although much remains to be done. The World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners provided 3.5 million people throughout the country with food assistance, with MINUSTAH and bilateral partners providing security. General food distributions are now winding down, with the focus shifting to longer-term food security and investments in human capital. Programmes will include: support to local markets; local procurement; and cash-for-work and food-for-work programmes to support economic activity and agricultural rehabilitation. To ensure access to food for the most vulnerable, WFP is providing meals for school-age children, nutrition programmes for pregnant and nursing mothers and their children, and supporting institutions and hospitals. It is also working with the Haitian authorities to pre-position emergency supplies for the rainy and hurricane seasons.

11. Providing emergency shelter is now the top priority for the humanitarian effort. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported that as of 6 April, approximately 90 per cent of those in need had received emergency materials — 376,000 tarpaulins and over 45,000 family-size tents have been distributed along with basic kitchen and hygiene equipment, ropes, blankets and mosquito nets. With the rainy season approaching, a key priority for the Government of Haiti and the humanitarian community is supporting the relocation of internally displaced persons away from flood-prone areas. For those people who are in at-risk sites and who cannot return to their home areas or stay with hosts, the

Government of Haiti has assigned 7,450 hectares of land north of Port-au-Prince for temporary relocations and has identified five new sites around Port-au-Prince to be developed for settlements. The United Nations and its partners are supporting site preparation, developing assistance packages and working with local communities to help the population understand their options. Emergency relocations from at-risk sites began on 10 April and will continue until the end of the month.

12. Water, sanitation and hygiene remain serious concerns, particularly in the spontaneous settlement sites. Since the beginning of the crisis, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations have distributed over 4 million litres of drinking water daily across more than 200 sites and 450 kiosks. Some 5,347 latrines have been installed in the earthquake-affected areas so far; the humanitarian community hopes to add an additional 32,000 latrines before the end of June.

13. In the health sector, over 396 national and international organizations are working to provide services to the public. With over 200 staff of Haiti's Ministry of Health killed, the World Health Organization and Pan-American Health Organization Office in Haiti deployed 60 international personnel to assist the Government of Haiti in managing public health risks, including coordinating the provision of free medical services and vaccination of 300,000 adults and children. United Nations actors and partners are also working to monitor and respond to outbreaks of infectious disease.

14. With the aim of injecting cash into the economy and providing income to the unemployed, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its implementing partners launched an extensive cash-for-work programme shortly after the earthquake. As of 1 April, 100,000 people had been employed in short-term projects, including the cleaning of canals and removal of debris. The MINUSTAH community labour-intensive watershed and canal rehabilitation projects were also scaled up as part of its approach to reduce community violence.

15. In the coming months, the challenge will be to continue delivering humanitarian relief in key sectors while also helping Haiti restore its own coping mechanisms. For United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners, the next phase of assistance will include decentralization towards regions hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons. It will also include investment in agriculture, while simultaneously ensuring access to food for the most vulnerable. Discussions with the Government of Haiti are under way to support preparedness for the imminent rainy and hurricane seasons, including setting up a harmonized contingency plan.

Reconstruction planning

16. On 18 February, Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive officially launched a post-disaster needs assessment to assess damage and losses arising from the earthquake and to estimate reconstruction needs. Led by the Government of Haiti and supported by the United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and the European Union, the needs assessment also included consultations with Parliament, civil society, the Haitian diaspora, the private sector and the people of Haiti. Drawing on its results, the Government of Haiti developed an Action Plan for the Reconstruction and the Development of Haiti, based on the need to "build back better" through deconcentration, economic stimulation, social reform and strengthening institutions. This Action Plan, an outline of which was presented at an international preparatory conference in Santo Domingo on 17 March, estimates

Haiti's needs at \$3.9 billion for the next 18 months, with long-term reconstruction requiring some \$11.5 billion.

17. On 31 March, the Government's Action Plan was presented to international donors at the United Nations in New York. In a powerful show of support, donors pledged more than \$9 billion, of which \$5 billion was pledged for the period 2010-2011. Many participants also spoke about the need for budget support to the Government of Haiti to help finance critical expenses, such as public sector salaries and the operation of schools and hospitals. The Government of Haiti indicated that it would initially manage funds through an Interim Haitian Reconstruction Commission, jointly chaired by Prime Minister Bellerive and President Clinton, pending the establishment of a Haitian development authority and a Haiti reconstruction fund, for which the World Bank will act as fiscal agent. Implementation will be guided by the principles adopted at the Ministerial Preparatory Conference on Haiti, which was held on 25 January 2010 in Montreal, Canada. The chairs and co-chairs of the New York conference agreed to meet at least twice a year with the international financial institutions and the United Nations to monitor implementation of the Haitian plan and of donors' pledges.

IV. Political and security update

Political situation

18. The earthquake interrupted a period of relatively smooth progress towards legislative, presidential and municipal elections, previously scheduled to be held in 2010. On 14 September 2009, both legislative Chambers of Haiti had approved a proposition in favour of constitutional amendments that, if ratified, would simplify the electoral calendar and improve the investment climate, including by providing for dual citizenship for the diaspora. Prime Minister Bellerive was sworn in on 12 November 2009, replacing former incumbent Michèle Pierre-Louis after a vote of censure against her government. In late November, 69 political parties and alliances had registered with the Conseil Electoral Provisoire, in anticipation of the February 2010 elections. Of these, the Conseil Electoral Provisoire approved 53, excluding, among others, Fanmi Lavalas, Eskamp, Konba and Union. Two new parties had emerged: Inité (Unity), President René Préval's platform, and Alternative Patriotique pour le Progrès (Patriotic Alternative for Progress), a coalition that includes the Fusion des Sociaux-Démocrates, the Organisation du Peuple en Lutte and Konfederasyon Inité Demokratik. This coalition is now considered the principal opposition party.

19. On 27 January, President Préval announced the postponement of the legislative elections that had been scheduled for February 2010. This triggered concern about the constitutional status of the Government after 10 May 2010, when the mandates of all Deputies and one third of Senators will expire. President Préval has repeatedly made clear in public statements his commitment to holding municipal, legislative and Presidential elections (in which he would be ineligible to stand) in time for the constitutional transfer of power on 7 February 2011. On 22 March, President Préval wrote to me requesting that the United Nations lead a feasibility mission to Haiti to evaluate requirements for the holding of general elections and assess the options for the timetable. Accordingly, the Department of Political Affairs will lead a mission to

Haiti jointly with UNDP and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the second half of April.

20. Despite criticism by the opposition of the Government's handling of the earthquake response, wide consultations by MINUSTAH with political and civil society actors indicate a broad acceptance of the need for political and social stability to allow for reconstruction and to ensure a smooth democratic transfer of power. However, questions remain about how to bridge the legislative gap between May and the results of elections. Also in question is the future of the constitutional reform process initiated on 14 September 2009. The Government continues to engage stakeholders on various options. Consensus on the political way forward will be an important basis for Haiti's stability in the coming months. On 15 April, the Senate adopted by a majority of 13 votes the law on the state of emergency, as approved by the Chamber of Deputies on 5 April. The law extends the state of emergency for a period of 18 months, and also creates the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission, giving the executive branch significant powers to implement the reconstruction plan presented at the 31 March donor conference.

Security situation

21. The security environment in Haiti remained generally calm. Before the earthquake, demonstrations, which were related mainly to poor living conditions, were generally peaceful and small in scale, except in Port-au-Prince, where protests by medical students became violent on several occasions. Initial fears of large-scale looting and violence in the aftermath of the earthquake did not materialize. However, there were a number of incidents affecting the humanitarian effort. Since January, eight kidnappings have been reported. There were also indications of some increase in crime, including sexual and gender-based violence in camps for internally displaced persons, though complete data is unavailable.

22. Significant new threats have arisen as a result of the earthquake, including from former gang leaders who escaped from prisons, in some cases with uniforms and weapons stolen from the Haitian National Police. Some of them have gone back to their former neighbourhoods, leading to power struggles between old and new gang leaders. With MINUSTAH assistance, the Haitian National Police recaptured some 283 escapees by early April. Two known criminal leaders were reportedly killed while resisting arrest. Although difficult to confirm, there are reports of an increase in drug trafficking in Haiti as a result of the current weakness of the law enforcement establishment.

23. Another new challenge is ensuring security in large settlements for internally displaced persons, including prevention of gender-based violence, where deteriorating living conditions, overcrowding and poor lighting are expected to contribute to a rise in crime. Physical damage to rule of law institutions further compounds this problem. There are also many broader challenges to the protection of the displaced population, who are dispersed across more than 1,300 sites, including obstacles to delivery of aid and the health risks associated with overcrowding, inadequate water supplies and poor sanitation. Higher levels of unemployment, loss of property and savings, and trauma arising from the events of 12 January also contribute to an environment of heightened vulnerability in Haiti.

V. Activities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

24. Despite its vast losses on 12 January, MINUSTAH has made extraordinary efforts to restore its capacity and has acted decisively to respond to post-earthquake needs within its mandate and in line with the priorities of relief, security and restoration of State capacity set out by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on 19 January. The sections below focus on Mission activities since the earthquake.

Mission support

25. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, MINUSTAH provided vital logistical and administrative support for rescue and relief operations. Strategic deployment stocks were released from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, to help restore Mission capacity as well as to support humanitarian agencies. The MINUSTAH Logistics Base in Port-au-Prince, which suffered relatively little damage, became the centre of operations for most United Nations actors, and provided space and basic facilities to many non-United Nations humanitarian responders. To accommodate the additional personnel arriving after the earthquake, MINUSTAH relocated some staff to an adjacent camp that had been previously prepared for incoming military forces. The establishment of an office in Santo Domingo to provide services not requiring a physical presence in Haiti has proven critical in enabling the Mission to move staff out of Port-au-Prince, where living conditions remain extremely difficult, while allowing them to continue to perform their functions. A land logistics corridor was also established between Port-au-Prince and Santo Domingo, using freight-forwarding contractors and military assets to facilitate the movement of critical supplies. Moreover, regular shuttle flights were established to facilitate the movement of personnel between Santo Domingo and Port-au-Prince.

26. A package of immediate measures was established to support MINUSTAH personnel, including through staff counsellors, mandatory temporary relocation, disbursement of cash advances and housing grants, and payment of funeral expenses for concerned national staff. Special procurement delegations and extraordinary measures were put in place to meet emerging challenges in a timely manner. Mission capacity was maintained throughout the emergency period with the temporary redeployment of over 300 volunteer staff from other peacekeeping missions and United Nations Headquarters.

27. To address acute shortages of safe living accommodation, arrangements were made to contract a ship for the purpose of housing MINUSTAH staff on a temporary basis. Structural analysis of all MINUSTAH office buildings is ongoing, as are assessments of private housing, which may allow staff to return to their homes. Long-term arrangements have yet to be finalized. Owing to the potential for further seismic activity, many areas of Port-au-Prince are considered at risk. In the long term, the Mission is exploring the possibility of an integrated United Nations compound in Port-au-Prince on Government-provided land, with buildings designed to withstand earthquakes and hurricanes.

Military

28. The MINUSTAH military component provided immediate support in the aftermath of the earthquake. MINUSTAH conducted search-and-rescue efforts at the former Mission headquarters and the Montana Hotel, provided security support for humanitarian operations, performed initial damage assessments and cleared critical roads in the Port-au-Prince area. With the deployment of non-United Nations security partners, an effective division of labour was established with forces from the United States of America, Canada, Spain, Italy and France to provide disaster relief and humanitarian assistance in the areas of Léogâne, Jacmel, Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas, while MINUSTAH continued to provide area security throughout Haiti.

29. Beginning in February, MINUSTAH was gradually reinforced with additional troops in line with Security Council resolution 1908 (2010). A second infantry battalion from Brazil, as well as engineering companies from Japan and the Republic of Korea, began arriving in February, and military police from Guatemala began arriving in April. As of 13 April 2010, the strength of the military component stands at 120 staff officers and 8,186 contingent members, comprising 13 infantry and 9 enabling units, including 4 engineering companies. Additional infantry troops from Argentina and Peru are scheduled to arrive through mid-May, further augmenting the Mission's capacity to provide security and support humanitarian assistance.

30. With this increased deployment, and with non-United Nations military partners reducing their presence in Haiti since early March, the MINUSTAH military component has assumed an even greater role in supporting the humanitarian effort, including providing security escorts to mobile and static distribution sites for food and other items, and by intensifying security patrols to ensure a secure and stable environment. Engineering support has been extended to support the humanitarian effort, including the preparation of two camps for internally displaced persons. The integrated Joint Operations and Tasking Centre has provided a centralized entry point for humanitarian partners to request assistance from MINUSTAH and international military actors, and also to coordinate planning.

Police

31. Given the scale of losses of the Haitian National Police, MINUSTAH focused its efforts in the emergency phase on supporting the operational capacity of the Haitian National Police to maintain security and public order. Increased patrols and security at key locations, including banks and warehouses, helped to create confidence, deter looting and foster early re-establishment of economic activity. As settlements for displaced persons expanded, the focus of police activity has shifted to protection in those locations, especially for the most vulnerable. United Nations police and the Haitian National Police have established a permanent joint presence in the two largest camps for internally displaced persons in Port-au-Prince, located at the Pétienville Club and Cité Soleil. Community policing bases staffed by female officers of the Haitian National Police and United Nations police have been established to encourage reporting of gender-based violence. Working in support of the Haitian National Police, United Nations police are conducting patrols 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

32. As of 13 April, the strength of the police component stood at 828 United Nations police and 1,350 formed police unit officers. The Mission is being gradually strengthened with additional capacity in line with Security Council resolution 1908 (2010). New formed police units from Spain and France and a Special Weapons and Tactics team, also from Spain, have arrived in the Mission. Additional United Nations police and formed police units from Bangladesh, Italy and India are expected in the coming weeks. Securing sufficient numbers of French-speaking and female officers, as well as qualified officers in specific areas, remains a challenge. Specialized areas of need include: training; civil engineering; architecture; anti-narcotics trafficking; anti-kidnapping; organized crime; planning; forensics; administration; procurement; logistics; mid-level management and regional commanders; and special victims experts.

33. Efforts to build the capacity of the Haitian National Police are gradually being restored, although at a reduced level compared with the pre-earthquake period. Recruitment for the twenty-third and twenty-fourth promotions of Haitian National Police officers is continuing, although with delays. Owing to capacity constraints, classes for the incoming group of 1,016 recruits were halted. However, the joint Haitian National Police/United Nations police team responsible for certification and vetting restarted its work. Of 7,153 files under investigation in December, 3,503 were reviewed and recommendations presented to the Haitian authorities for decision. With the United Nations copies of vetting files destroyed in the earthquake, United Nations police are recreating files based on the Haitian National Police archive. Meanwhile, the United Nations police supported the Haitian National Police in developing a strategic framework for assistance, in line with its reform plan, which was presented to donors on 31 March.

Community violence reduction

34. MINUSTAH continued its community violence reduction programme in partnership with local and national authorities, focusing on 12 priority violence-affected areas. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the Mission helped select food distribution sites, supported community coordination and launched six new watershed management labour-intensive projects in the areas of Martissant and Carrefour Feuilles in Port-au-Prince. An additional 15 watershed management and 39 canal clearing and rehabilitation projects employing 44,000 workers from the slum areas have been prepared and are set to launch in May, pending approval by United Nations legislative bodies. As part of an effort to ease tensions within camps for internally displaced persons, an existing project to provide outdoor multimedia screenings, including public service announcements, was reoriented to target four camps of internally displaced persons in the Port-au-Prince area.

35. Projects ongoing before the earthquake were restarted or realigned to reflect the new reality on the ground. During the reporting period, MINUSTAH completed 20 of 40 approved projects, including providing employment to 11,000 beneficiaries and professional skills training for 350 youth; provision of medical and legal support to 1,800 women victims of violence; and a pilot project providing business skills training to women entrepreneurs in two violent neighbourhoods. The Mission supported mobile clinics for approximately 1,500 street children, and began activities to support minors who are in conflict with the law. With national and local counterparts, MINUSTAH conducted social mobilization campaigns promoting non-violence, tolerance and peace in all 12 priority areas.

Support to State institutions

36. MINUSTAH continued its support to the Ministry of Interior and State institutions at the subnational level through its network of regional offices. MINUSTAH officers provided technical advice and support to departmental and commune-level disaster management committees in affected areas, including identifying and managing settlements for the internally displaced. In response to the severe destruction in Léogâne, the Mission established a new sub-office there and worked with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and local authorities to support relief and reconstruction efforts.

37. Within its capacity, MINUSTAH continued to provide support to both Chambers of Parliament. Technical support focused on: legislation on gender promotion; advocacy on the protection of children's rights; prevention and repression of corruption; law on habeas corpus; training in public relations and media services; and parliamentary best practices. Drawing on technical assistance provided by MINUSTAH before the earthquake, the Chamber of Deputies adopted, among others, draft legislation on the customs code on 23 March.

38. In the area of border management, MINUSTAH refocused its priorities on rehabilitation of the customs network and supported the Government's post-earthquake needs assessment.

Justice

39. Much of the Mission's work in the area of justice was halted in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake in the face of damage to the critical infrastructure of the judiciary. MINUSTAH assisted in the recovery of documents and records and worked closely with UNDP and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security to finalize a joint recovery workplan for the period up to September 2011. Major priorities are to recruit and train 30 new magistrates and to provide in-service training to current prosecutors, justices of the peace and registrars.

40. At the end of January, the courts of first instance had resumed hearing criminal cases in Port-au-Prince's public prosecutors' building, with 13 prosecutors out of 21 reporting for duty. MINUSTAH continued to work with the international community to support emergency renovation of court locations and to assist the Ministry of Justice in implementing four reform projects. Work also resumed on the new draft of the criminal procedural code, while a draft law on prosecution of corruption that was submitted to Parliament on 30 December 2009 was expected to be discussed during the current extraordinary session.

Corrections

41. MINUSTAH identified three priorities for post-earthquake support to the Direction de l'Administration Pénitentiaire: ensuring security at prisons still holding inmates to prevent further escapes; ensuring the well-being of inmates by providing food, water and medical services; and rebuilding the prison infrastructure to restore detention capacity. MINUSTAH worked with donors to facilitate the restoration of three damaged prisons, to augment secure detention capacity in compliance with minimum international standards, and to support prison administration and planning. MINUSTAH also undertook daily visits to prisons to ensure respect for inmates' rights and international minimum standards.

Human rights

42. MINUSTAH adapted its pre-earthquake strategic priorities (strengthening public policy, empowering civil society organizations and addressing impunity), towards protection in relief efforts immediately after the earthquake. With the support of additional staff from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Mission assumed its lead of the humanitarian protection cluster and, in coordination with the Government of Haiti, worked to coordinate an effective response by all actors. Priorities included: protection of the earthquake-affected population, including those in spontaneous camps; inclusion of human rights standards and principles in the relief efforts as well as in policymaking for reconstruction; monitoring the human rights situation in other affected areas, especially those hosting large numbers of internally displaced persons; and ensuring participation in the protection efforts of the Government, the national human rights institution (Office du Protecteur du Citoyen) and non-governmental organizations. Medium- and long-term priorities include enhancing the capacity of the Office du Protecteur du Citoyen and other national entities, including non-governmental organizations, to promote and protect human rights, and ensuring their active participation in international efforts to strengthen the administration of justice and rule of law institutions in Haiti.

43. In March, MINUSTAH military and police led a joint security assessment mission with the Haitian National Police, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on protection of internally displaced persons in camps, leading to a major surge in policing and other efforts to ensure their protection. MINUSTAH also developed contingency plans for protection in the event of additional emergencies and is developing small-scale projects to reduce the vulnerability of internally displaced persons in host areas outside the earthquake-affected zones.

Gender

44. Noting the loss of many prominent gender activists and senior cadres of the Ministry in Charge of Women and Women's Rights and the particular vulnerability of displaced women and girls, including to trafficking and sexual exploitation, the Mission provided technical support for the integration of gender concerns into post-disaster activities. In partnership with UNFPA, MINUSTAH also supported the Haitian National Police in a pilot project establishing reception facilities for victims of sexual violence in two police commissariats. Earlier in the reporting period, MINUSTAH provided support to the Ministry to ensure a quota of at least 30 per cent representation of women in public decision-making positions in the proposed Constitutional amendments.

Child protection

45. MINUSTAH, in collaboration with UNICEF, continued to work to strengthen the capacity of Government and other partners to address issues affecting children in the context of greatly increased vulnerability following the earthquake. Key priorities include: the prevention of sexual violence, in particular in sites for internally displaced persons; the protection of separated and displaced children; prevention of illegal adoptions and trafficking; and reduction of the high number of

non-registered orphanages. Children displaced, orphaned or separated from their families are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, sexual exploitation and association to criminality. Through the child protection sub-cluster, MINUSTAH is working with UNICEF and other partners to improve security and protection in internally displaced person sites and is also contributing to a campaign to promote awareness of child trafficking. Institutions responsible for the protection of children urgently require reinforcement. MINUSTAH continued to contribute to building the capacity of the Haitian National Police for child protection and to provide technical assistance for reform of adoption legislation as well as policy on detention of minors.

HIV/AIDS

46. MINUSTAH continued to conduct training activities within the Mission and worked with the United Nations country team to integrate HIV/AIDS prevention into the emergency response. Since the earthquake, MINUSTAH has trained 1,099 incoming military (39 females and 1,060 males), 592 United Nations police (39 females and 553 males) and 92 civilians (29 females and 63 males), and offered voluntary counselling and confidential testing to 235 United Nations police, 24 civilian and 80 military staff. Jointly with Family Health International, MINUSTAH also trained 25 peer leaders, including Haitian National Police, immigration and customs officials.

Public information

47. MINUSTAH rapidly resumed its communications and public information efforts, including photography and video, after the earthquake. MINUSTAH FM radio broadcasting resumed within five days, thanks to technical support from Radio France. Cooperation with public information officers from all United Nations agencies, funds and programmes enabled a coordinated response to thousands of media enquiries and requests for technical support. The Mission and United Nations partners planned and coordinated a large-scale information campaign to support the relocation of internally displaced persons from dangerous temporary shelters to safer accommodation before the rainy season.

Conduct and discipline

48. Following the earthquake, conduct and discipline training was temporarily suspended. Despite decreased capacity, the Mission resumed a sensitization campaign with non-governmental organizations and other actors and strengthened coordination with United Nations agencies to ensure reporting of conduct and discipline matters, with special attention to deterring sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children. During the reporting period, two United Nations police were repatriated for misconduct.

VI. Future role of MINUSTAH

49. In my consultations with the Security Council in recent weeks, I advised Council Members that I would initiate a review of the role of MINUSTAH and recommend any adjustments to the mandate or activities of the Mission that might be required in the light of the post-earthquake situation. Accordingly, in March, my Special Representative undertook a field-based planning process in close

cooperation with the United Nations country team and in consultation with the Government of Haiti. Recommendations were endorsed by the United Nations Haiti Integrated Strategic Planning Group in Port-au-Prince on 7 April.

50. The planning group concluded that the January earthquake had not destroyed the gains towards stabilization made in the past few years but that it had damaged them and created new obstacles. While Haiti's population and institutions have shown extraordinary resilience, the earthquake has generated vast new needs and decimated the already weak capacity of the State to address them. However, the devastation has also presented opportunities in the form of an outpouring of international support and the Government's vision for a transformed Haiti based on decentralization, strengthened institutions and regional development.

51. The next 12 to 18 months will be a period of high risk, in which political, security, protection and recovery objectives will need to be pursued simultaneously to enable Haiti to keep to a critical path that, above all, preserves the political legitimacy of the State and creates an enabling environment for recovery and development. The role of the United Nations and its Member States in this period should be to support Haiti's Government and institutions in delivering on their responsibilities, while respecting their authority and prerogatives.

52. On that basis, the United Nations must pursue an integrated approach in five key areas that have been agreed among all responsible departments and agencies: (a) fostering political stability, including through constitutional reform, elections and democratic governance; (b) coordinating and enabling the post-earthquake relief effort, while reducing the risk of future disaster, especially for the most vulnerable; (c) maintaining a secure and stable environment, while working to strengthen the rule of law, human rights and protection, and to support Haiti's police, judicial and corrections institutions; (d) supporting the Government in the implementation of its vision for strengthened State capacity and decentralization; and (e) helping Haiti begin building its human capital through promotion of a balanced social agenda.

53. Within this vision, MINUSTAH has a vital role to play. Whereas before the earthquake, the Mission was entering a period of consolidation, a surge effort is now needed for the next 18 months to two years, in which the Mission will help the Government preserve the gains of stabilization to date and enable a smooth transition to long-term reconstruction. Much of this surge can be achieved by scaling up activities within the current mandate, while in a few areas the Mission should provide greater technical, operational and logistical assistance to Government and State institutions as recommended below. Across the five goals, an integrated strategic framework will be developed to ensure complementarity between the Mission's activities and those of the United Nations country team.

A. Political stability and elections

54. Haiti's path to stability depends above all on adherence to a political and electoral timetable that will allow for a smooth handover of power in February 2011. In the coming year, my Special Representative will continue to devote his good offices to supporting the political process. The Mission will step up its efforts to engage all stakeholders, including civil society, with a view to enabling timely, free and inclusive elections. Expansion of existing outreach efforts, with special regard to women, is envisaged within the existing mandate.

55. A major focus of effort will be timely preparations for the 2010 presidential, legislative and municipal elections. Those preparations will take place in a particularly challenging environment, given the short constitutional time frame and the need to renew the mandate of the Conseil Electoral Provisoire, rebuild damaged voting centres, update the voter roll and take measures to provide for those who are displaced and/or are without documentation. Subject to the results of the United Nations electoral assessment requested by President Préval and, in consultation with relevant partners, including the Organization of American States (OAS), it is envisaged that MINUSTAH will provide expanded technical support and advice to the Conseil Electoral Provisoire, including for logistics, security and planning, in the context of an integrated approach with UNDP. MINUSTAH will also provide support to the promotion of human rights required for the conduct of free and fair elections. I recommend that MINUSTAH assume the lead role in coordinating international electoral assistance in order to ensure its efficiency and avoid the duplication of efforts.

B. Support to humanitarian and recovery efforts

56. Meeting humanitarian needs and reducing vulnerability to new disasters are vital tasks for Haiti and its international partners. As the relief effort continues to ramp up and early recovery initiatives are developed, coordination will be critical, including to ensure a smooth transition from relief to reconstruction. In this regard, my Special Representative will continue to oversee the activities of the whole United Nations system and, within means and capabilities, ensure the full support of the MINUSTAH military, police and logistics components to humanitarian and recovery efforts. Where requested, MINUSTAH will support humanitarian actors with military and its own assets and will continue to facilitate joint planning and coordination at the national and regional levels, in coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations country team, including facilitating the full engagement of national actors. I welcome the cooperation of Member States to date with the coordination mechanisms established by the Government, MINUSTAH, the United Nations country team and the humanitarian community, and encourage continued engagement.

57. While the massive tasks of clearance of debris and reconstruction will increasingly be assumed by civilian engineering contracts, which will also generate local jobs, the scale and urgency of tasks will mean a continued demand for military support. Where required, MINUSTAH military engineers will play a critical enabling role by clearing debris, improving drainage, preparing alternative sites for at-risk settlements and ensuring that access routes remain open throughout the hurricane season. To respond to this need, MINUSTAH will reconfigure the military component within the existing troop ceiling to provide additional military engineers on a surge basis.

C. Security, human rights and the rule of law

58. The lead role in ensuring public order lies with the Haitian National Police, which responded strongly to the earthquake despite the very significant damage suffered to its own infrastructure and loss of personnel. However, the post-earthquake situation poses vast new challenges, particularly in ensuring protection

of the displaced population in special camps and elsewhere, especially the most vulnerable. The Haitian National Police will need more assistance to face this and other challenges, such as a potential resurgence of gang violence triggered by escaped detainees.

59. Noting that the additional core tasks are in the area of policing, no change is requested in the current strength of the military component. The force authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1908 (2010) is deemed sufficient to ensure a secure environment, including through assistance to border monitoring, and support to police where required. Within the existing force levels, MINUSTAH will continue to reduce its total number of armoured personnel carriers by up to one quarter, as described in my last report, and to replace them with lighter capabilities based on the needs in Haiti.

60. I recommend that the Security Council authorize an expansion of the MINUSTAH police component to help the Haitian National Police fulfil two overriding priorities: (a) establish a sustainable and visible police presence, including to protect the population in camps for internally displaced persons and to maintain a conducive environment for free and fair elections; and (b) maintain capable special Haitian National Police units to detain dangerous escapees and tackle the risk of renewed gang violence. Additional capacity is required to allow MINUSTAH police to develop an enhanced programme of co-location and joint operations with the Haitian National Police, including a permanent presence at the seven largest internally displaced person camps, of which the largest houses over 50,000 people, and to enable co-location of United Nations police with Haitian National Police officers at departmental, town and district level, with appropriate formed police unit support. This approach will involve increased logistical support to the Haitian National Police, including establishment of temporary police infrastructure in priority internally displaced person camps. The police approach will be further supported by joint activities with MINUSTAH civilian units and UNDP to bolster community security.

61. To this end, I recommend an increase of 680 police personnel, representing 200 United Nations police and three self-sustaining formed police units, in addition to the force levels authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1908 (2010). Based on the Mission's current absorption capacity, the entire force currently authorized could be deployed by the end of September, with the additional 680 deployed before the end of the year, in time for the envisaged elections. I intend to review the effectiveness of MINUSTAH operational support to the Haitian National Police in the coming months.

62. The posture of the MINUSTAH police component will form part of the Mission's integrated approach to the protection of civilians. Recognizing the urgent protection situation, the Mission will scale up its protection and human rights monitoring and advocacy, in particular to address sexual and gender-based violence, and other civil, political and economic, social and cultural rights concerns, in coordination with humanitarian actors. This effort will be pursued in parallel with efforts to ensure the adequate inclusion of human rights within public policy in the context of the reconstruction process and to fulfil the additional responsibilities assigned to OHCHR by Human Rights Council resolution S/13.

63. With regard to the development of the rule of law, it is proposed that MINUSTAH pursue a two-track approach to surge support for the Haitian National

Police, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, and major judicial and correctional institutions. This would involve:

(a) Provision of limited direct logistical support to enable the aforementioned institutions to continue operations and provide basic services. This may require putting MINUSTAH assets at the disposal of the Government, including accommodation, vehicles and office equipment, which would remain under the direct control and management of MINUSTAH; or, exceptionally, the loan of MINUSTAH-owned assets to the Government of Haiti. Such support would be coordinated with United Nations and international partners and phased out as donor assistance materializes into new infrastructure and assets;

(b) Increased provision of technical expertise to Haitian officials, to support the capacity for service delivery by police, courts and prisons, and to improve governance and oversight capacities. This assistance, which is detailed below, could last for up to two years and would require MINUSTAH to deploy United Nations staff, as well as seconded experts, in ministries, police commissariats, judicial and correctional institutions, on the basis of requests from the Government of Haiti.

64. This approach will be taken forward in the framework of the joint programme currently under development with UNDP and the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, in order to maximize impact of the United Nations assistance in police, justice, corrections and violence reduction. In addition, MINUSTAH stands ready to support the Government of Haiti in undertaking any possible long-term security sector planning and review, should it decide to do so.

65. In the area of police reform, United Nations experts would continue to assist the Government in vetting, training and mentoring police personnel, and would provide technical expertise to the General Directorate and Inspector-General of the Haitian National Police to enhance their capacity in oversight and management. Progress in the development of the Haitian National Police, based on the 2006-2011 Haitian National Police Reform Plan, will also require strong Government commitment. In this regard, adoption of a Government strategy to ensure that Haitian National Police officers comply with standards and regulations would be an important step. The Supplemental Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Haiti that was signed on 22 February 2006 will also require review.

66. In the area of justice, MINUSTAH experts, acting as advisers to Haitian judicial actors and in partnership with UNDP, would help sustain essential judicial operations and assist in timely processing of the heavy post-earthquake caseload, including addressing cases arising from redetention of prison escapees, disputes over missing persons, inheritance, land and property. In coordination with United Nations partners, MINUSTAH would step up its technical assistance in support of legislative action to reduce pretrial detention and tackle corruption and illegal trafficking. The role of these MINUSTAH advisers would be to provide advice and recommendations when requested; decision-making authority in all cases would ultimately rest with the responsible Haitian official. In the meantime, MINUSTAH would continue deployment of seconded corrections officers, as currently mandated, to advise, train and mentor Haitian corrections officials, with a focus on improving security and basic conditions in prisons, and monitoring progress in compliance with human rights and international standards.

67. Both justice and corrections seconded personnel would initially be accommodated within the 100 slots already earmarked for corrections experts, within the total police strength authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1908 (2010). The Mission will keep total requirements under review, in close consultation with the Government of Haiti. All these activities will be complemented by the continuation of the Mission's existing community violence reduction programme. To scale up its activities in cooperation with national partners, specifically the communities and local authorities, as well as international partners, in particular UNDP and the International Organization for Migration, MINUSTAH has sought an additional \$11 million to support earthquake-affected communities at risk of violence, in addition to the amount of \$3 million approved for community violence reduction programmes for the 2009/10 period.

68. In support of the Government's efforts to deter organized crime, MINUSTAH will step up efforts to address cross-border drug and illegal trafficking, and continue its support of border security activities by the Haitian National Police. In close collaboration with Haitian authorities and interested Member States, MINUSTAH would dedicate additional resources to counter-narcotics efforts, including assistance to relevant Haitian National Police units. Noting that customs receipts are a major source of Government revenue, MINUSTAH will offer technical expertise and logistical assistance in the area of border management, in line with its existing mandate. In coordination with the European Commission and other donors, the Mission will provide customs experts to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and advise on implementation of an integrated border management strategy.

69. Across the rule of law sector, including police, justice and corrections, my Special Representative will play a leading role, in support of State institutions, to coordinate the activities of the United Nations system and other international partners. In this context, MINUSTAH will need some additional means to undertake limited programmes in support to the Government of Haiti, to address pressing needs in the rule of law area.

D. State capacity and transformation

70. A critical determinant of stability in the year ahead will be the ability of the Government of Haiti to ensure adequate delivery of services and opportunities to communities outside Port-au-Prince, which would also help to deter a large-scale return of internally displaced persons to the stricken capital. A positive result would lay a strong foundation for the Government's emerging policy of State deconcentration, decentralization and regional development. Failure could lead to instability and a renewed humanitarian and social crisis. Although other actors will provide long-term capacity-building support, Haitian institutions in the front line will need immediate support for the surge period to restore and strengthen their operational capacity. In addition to the Mission's existing partner institutions in the Presidency, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Interior, these "front-line" actors will include delegation offices in Haiti's 10 departments, which will need additional support to implement Government policies at the regional level.

71. It is therefore recommended that for these institutions, as for the rule of law institutions referred to above, MINUSTAH should be mandated to provide expanded assistance along the two tracks described in paragraph 63 above. This would involve:

(a) Limited direct logistical support, including for example access to temporary office accommodation, equipment and facilities for Government officials, to enable them to discharge their basic functions;

(b) Provision of additional technical expertise, which in this case would take the form of MINUSTAH embedded advisers, which already exist in the Ministry of the Interior and Territorial Collectivities and the Presidency, and would now be offered to the 10 departmental delegations. Deployment of these advisers would be on a demand-driven basis and in the context of an integrated approach with UNDP, with a view to supporting immediate operations and enabling a smooth transition to reconstruction and capacity-building.

72. To advance its vision for decentralization and create an enabling environment for long-term capacity-building, it will be important for the Government to make early progress on developing the legal and policy framework for decentralization, which MINUSTAH stands ready to support in cooperation with other actors.

E. Investment in human capital

73. Promoting equitable development and opportunities is a critical part of the equation that will foster stability and enable the consolidation and eventual drawdown of MINUSTAH. The lead in supporting the Government in this area lies with the United Nations country team. The Mission should play an enabling role, within its mandate and capabilities, to support the overall goals of the United Nations to advance the development of a balanced social agenda in Haiti, implementation of fundamental policies of social protection, especially education, and progress on the Millennium Development Goals. Through its outreach and public information efforts, the Mission will continue to engage students and young people in support of activities by the Government, the United Nations country team and other partners.

74. Finally, the surge period should see MINUSTAH make a renewed commitment to mainstreaming social protection, human rights, HIV/AIDS and gender equality across Mission activity. Existing MINUSTAH advisers will continue to ensure that a rights-based approach in these areas informs the work of the Mission and, where mandated, will fulfil specific monitoring and reporting responsibilities against clear benchmarks and indicators, including in respect of child trafficking and progress made in implementing Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009).

75. It is foreseen that the above elements, taken together with the activities of the United Nations country team, as well as the role to be played by the World Bank and other regional and international actors, will support Haiti in weathering this extraordinary period of transition. I would be grateful for the support of the Council for the proposed approach, which should be kept under review as the needs and priorities of Haiti evolve. In my subsequent report, I will provide an update on progress, together with revised benchmarks and indicators.

VII. Financial aspects

76. By its resolution 63/294, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of \$611,751,200 for the maintenance of MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. In the aftermath of the earthquake of 12 January 2010 in Haiti, the resources approved for MINUSTAH have been utilized to meet the most immediate and urgent requirements of the Mission and for the immediate recovery and reconstruction projects in the country. On 26 March 2010, I submitted to the General Assembly a request for commitment authority for the Mission (A/64/728) in the amount of \$120.6 million in order to supplement resources already approved by the Assembly for the 2009/10 period and to address additional requirements arising from the increase in the authorized strength of military and police personnel by 3,500 personnel approved by the Council in its resolution 1908 (2010). My request is expected to be considered by the Assembly during the second part of its resumed sixty-fourth session.

77. Pending the preparation of the proposed budget for MINUSTAH for the 2010/11 period, to be submitted to the General Assembly during the main part of its sixty-fifth session, I am also submitting to the Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-fourth session a commitment authority request in order to provide resources for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2010.

78. As at 28 February 2010, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSTAH amounted to \$312.7 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$3,782.7 million.

79. As at 15 April 2010, amounts owed to troop and formed police contributors to MINUSTAH totalled \$28.1 million. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs have been made for the period up to 28 February 2010 and 30 September 2009, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VIII. Observations

80. Of all the reports I have provided to the Security Council, the present is perhaps the most painful to convey. Once again, I wish to express my condolences to all those in Haiti, the United Nations, and beyond, who suffered life-changing injuries and loss as a result of the disaster of 12 January. We will remember the fallen. Our best tribute to them is to continue their work, to transform Haiti and build anew out of tragedy.

81. I thank and congratulate all those who, despite their shock and distress, have worked to respond to the emergency. I recognize that the road ahead will be long, and I wish to assure all Haitians of the commitment of the United Nations to supporting their efforts. In this regard, on 31 March, I appointed as my Special Representative Edmond Mulet, who has acted in that role from the very beginning of the crisis and whom I know will continue to lead our efforts in Haiti with great skill and dedication.

82. The Haitian people have reacted to the disaster with admirable dignity and resilience. The Government of Haiti and political and civil society actors are also to be commended for their constructive efforts to build consensus and ensure political stability. Despite the scale of loss and suffering, Haiti has not fallen back to the violence that was prevalent until 2007. Moreover, the Government has a vision of a renewed State capable of delivering opportunity for all its people, including the most vulnerable. Central to this vision is an ambitious plan to proceed with elections that will allow for a Presidential transition in early 2011. This must be strongly supported by the international community, as must constitutional arrangements to allow the incoming Government to carry out its duties effectively in the best interest of Haiti's people.

83. I welcome the great generosity shown by the international community towards Haiti, including the pledges made at the donors' conference in New York on 31 March. The challenge will now be to translate these pledges into concrete deliverables on the ground. I welcome the commitment of all those involved to ensure that the reconstruction is Haitian-led, based on Haitian culture, history and the aspiration of its people, with the active participation of all sectors of society. I call on donors and the Government to maintain their commitment to a mutually accountable and transparent process, with coordinated actions to avoid duplication and wasted effort.

84. I am deeply concerned about the risks Haiti faces in the coming months, not least with upcoming rainy and hurricane seasons. Relief and protection efforts must continue to scale up, while the fragility of State institutions also leaves the country vulnerable to the resurgence of gang activity, organized crime and drug trafficking that could undermine the stabilization gains of recent years. Conditions in the camps for internally displaced persons also create new vulnerabilities that must be addressed.

85. I call on the Security Council to support the approach proposed in paragraphs 49 to 75 of this report for a surge effort by MINUSTAH to provide additional technical, operational and logistical support that will support the Government of Haiti in meeting its responsibilities, while respecting its authority and prerogatives. I thank those Member States that have already contributed to strengthening the Mission since 12 January, and ask for their continued support to enable MINUSTAH to fulfil its role. I also thank the international community for its generous contributions to humanitarian operations, and again appeal for urgently needed funds, as the revised humanitarian appeal is currently only 50 per cent funded.

86. We should not underestimate the time required for Haiti to recover from the earthquake. The statistics of the disaster and response outlined above tell only part of the story. Hardly a Haitian family has been unaffected. Poor rural communities are now host to those who fled the capital immediately after the quake. They urgently require support to prevent a massive return to the capital, which would put unsustainable pressure on the economy and services, not to mention housing.

87. As we support post-earthquake recovery, we must seek remedies to help Haiti address historic social and economic problems; the deficit in education which holds back progress on all fronts, the lack of effective rule of law and respect for the human rights of all Haitians; and a housing deficit which, even before January, saw hundreds of thousands of Haitians in improvised housing in shanties. It will also be critical to ensure that the coming influx of international aid mitigates, and does not

exacerbate the unequal distribution of wealth and opportunity that has long fuelled instability in Haiti. We must ensure that the new funds that have been made available are targeted to assisting Haiti to build sustainable growth and stability, tackle inequality and to meet the Millennium Development Goals. I know that my Special Envoy will play a critical role in leading the overall international coordination effort in this regard.

88. These will be extraordinary challenges in the coming months. I thank and applaud the efforts of the whole United Nations team in Haiti, who have performed admirably under the most difficult circumstances, and particularly my Special Representative Edmond Mulet.

Annex I

**United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti:
countries providing military staff and contingents
(as of 13 April 2010)**

Country	Staff officers		Troops		Total
	Females	Males	Females	Males	
Argentina		9	37	514	560
Bolivia		3	16	189	208
Brazil		22 ¹	6	2 160	2 188
Canada	2	9	—	—	11
Chile		5	14	484	503
Ecuador		0	—	66	66
France		2	—	—	2
Guatemala		4	13	130	147
India		1	—	—	1
Japan		2	—	190	192
Jordan		8	—	592	600
Nepal		13	8	1 059	1 080
Paraguay		—	—	31	31
Peru	1	4	—	214	219
Philippines	1	1	6	149	157
Republic of Korea	1	—	4	235	240
Sri Lanka		11	—	948	959
United States of America	1	7	—	—	8
Uruguay		13	42	1 079	1 134
Total	6	114	146	8 040	8 306

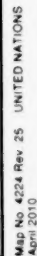
¹ Including the Force Commander.

Annex II

**Composition and strength of the police component
of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
(as at 13 April 2010)**

<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of United Nations police</i>		<i>Number of former police units</i>	
	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
Argentina	0	15	0	0
Bangladesh	0	6	0	0
Benin	1	18	0	0
Brazil	0	3	0	0
Burkina Faso	2	15	0	0
Burundi	0	0	0	0
Cameroon	1	10	0	0
Canada	14	70	0	0
Central African Republic	1	2	0	0
Chad	0	17	0	0
Chile	3	12	0	0
China	3	13	6	120
Colombia	0	34	0	0
Côte d'Ivoire	0	45	0	0
Croatia	0	2	0	0
Egypt	0	25	0	0
El Salvador	3	9	0	0
France	4	46	0	145
Grenada	0	1	0	0
Guinea	1	24	0	0
India	0	10	0	139
Italy	0	0	0	2
Jamaica	0	9	0	0
Jordan	0	28	0	286
Lithuania	0	0	0	0
Madagascar	2	10	0	0
Mali	1	41	0	0
Nepal	0	49	0	125
Niger	0	33	0	0
Nigeria	0	0	22	118
Pakistan	1	6	0	280
Philippines	2	17	0	0
Romania	5	15	0	0
Russian Federation	1	5	0	0

Country	Number of United Nations police		Number of formed police units	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Rwanda	3	10	0	0
Senegal	0	23	0	83
Serbia	1	4	0	0
Spain	5	30	0	23
Sri Lanka	0	14	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0
Thailand	0	0	0	0
Togo	0	6	0	0
Turkey	0	41	0	0
Uruguay	0	6	0	0
United States of America	6	42	0	0
Yemen	0	2	0	0
	60	768	28	1 321
Total		828		1 349
Grand total			2 177	





Security Council

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27 April 2010

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

Corrigendum

In the masthead of document S/2010/200, the date *should read*

22 April 2010



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
23 April 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 19 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué issued by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission commending the people of the Sudan and the Sudanese political parties for peacefully conducting multiparty general elections from 11 to 15 April 2010, while also commending the efforts deployed by the National Elections Commission (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalmahmood **Abdalhaleem**
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 19 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Communiqué on the Sudanese General Elections

16 April 2010

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission wishes to commend the people of the Sudan and the Sudanese political parties for peacefully conducting the just-concluded multiparty general elections, held from 11 to 15 April 2010. These elections constitute a fundamental milestone towards realizing the democratic transformation of the Sudan, as espoused in the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Indeed, they have thus enabled the majority of the Sudanese citizens to exercise their civic and democratic rights by electing representatives of their choice for the first time in 24 years.

The Chairperson notes that the elections were faced with some administrative and logistic challenges and, in this regard, expresses his appreciation for the efforts deployed by the National Elections Commission to address and resolve them. It was encouraging that such challenges did not impact negatively on the resolve of the Sudanese people to cast their votes.

The Chairperson reiterates the unwavering support of the African Union for the Sudanese people, especially through the mission and work of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel. He is confident that the Panel's efforts will be instrumental in helping the Sudanese stakeholders implement the remaining key aspects of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and bring about peace, national reconciliation and justice in Darfur.

The Chairperson would like to urge the Sudanese people to continue maintaining calm, and looks forward to a smooth completion of the electoral process with the announcement of the final results of the elections.

**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
22 April 2010

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session
Agenda items 16, 49 and 67**Security Council**
Sixty-fifth year**Question of Palestine****Culture of peace****Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia
and related intolerance****Letter dated 20 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of
Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In my capacity as Chair of the Group of Arab States for the month of April 2010, I wish, on behalf of the States members of the Group, to draw your urgent attention to the serious matter of the Israeli desecration of the Ma'man Allah (Mamilla) Cemetery, a Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem. This issue, which was raised in a letter and detailed annex conveyed to you by the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations on 9 April 2010 (A/ES-10/486-S/2010/184), is of critical importance to the Arab Group.

Since the twelfth century, the Ma'man Allah Cemetery has been the burial site for thousands of Palestinian families, as well as scholars, religious figures and officials. The Ma'man Allah Cemetery was declared a historic site by the Muslim Supreme Council in 1927 and was pronounced an antiquities site by the British Mandate authorities in 1944. Today, regrettably, many of the descendants of the families buried there are now tragically bearing witness to the malevolent uprooting and desecration of the human remains and graves of their ancestors by the Israeli authorities, who are bulldozing large areas of the Cemetery for the purpose of establishing a so-called "Centre for Human Dignity and Museum of Tolerance" atop the remains of the Muslim men, women and children buried there. Additionally, in the past, the Ma'man Allah Cemetery has been subjected to vandalism, destruction and desecration by radical Israeli settlers.

These Israeli actions are being taken in total disregard of the Palestinian heritage in Jerusalem and the human and religious sensitivities concerning burial sites, which are to be preserved and protected. Moreover, these actions are reflective of a deep and callous disrespect for the most basic values of tolerance and respect for the heritage, culture and religion of another people and clearly constitute yet

another attempt by Israel to erase the Palestinian Arab identity, history and presence in the land, and particularly in the City of Jerusalem.

In this regard, it is imperative to recall that the protection of cultural heritage and cultural property, including religious sites such as cemeteries, is guaranteed by international human rights instruments such as the World Heritage Convention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Moreover, such actions constitute violations of the right to manifest religious beliefs, the right to family and culture, and the right to freedom from discrimination. These rights and principles have been invoked by thousands of petitioners, including Muslim, Christian and Jewish personalities from around the world, who have voiced their outrage and their opposition to Israel's immoral, unethical and illegal actions in the Ma'man Allah Cemetery.

The States members of the Arab Group also affirm their strong condemnation of these deplorable Israeli measures in the Ma'man Allah Cemetery in Jerusalem, an issue which threatens to further inflame tensions and religious sensitivities in the region and beyond. The Arab Group thus calls upon Your Excellency to give this matter urgent attention. The international community must denounce the desecration of the Ma'man Allah Cemetery and must undertake all efforts to compel Israel to suspend completely its illegal and provocative actions in this regard and halt all construction in the Cemetery, and to undertake efforts to properly, with the utmost sensitivity and conscience, redress the matter in order to preserve and protect this historic, religious site of great importance to Palestinian Arab and Muslim heritage.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 16, 49 and 67, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansour **Al Otaibi**
Chair of the Arab Group
Ambassador
Permanent Representative